

Closing Remarks
Aye Aye Thwin
Chief, OPHN
LEAD Project Closing Ceremony Event
August 17, 2006; 2:30 PM
Pan Pacific Hotel
Malate, Manila

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat. (Good afternoon to all)

USAID is honored to be a part of today's celebration of LGU achievements in health governance.

Our Mission Director Jon Lindborg has told you of past U.S. Government assistance in the field of health governance in the Philippines. Again, I'd like to thank all our development partners: the DOH, the governors and mayors, PhilHealth, POPCOM and our cooperating agency, MSH for the successes gained during this three-year LEAD for Health Project.

The future: In the next coming months, USAID is planning to launch new projects to address the health situation in selected

LGUs. In close collaboration with the DOH, the five new projects conceptualized are:

- a new Health Sector Development project to provide technical assistance to strengthen LGU management and delivery of health services.
- another Health Sector Development project to establish a supportive policy and financing environment for priority health programs including family planning, maternal & child health, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.
- a Health Promotion and Communication project that will help to improve health behaviors and practices.
- A tuberculosis control project that will also address other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
- and finally, an integrated and more comprehensive ARMM health project to address the poor health situation in this unique and challenging region.

In addition to the specific objectives of these projects, the common thread that binds these five initiatives is continuing and strengthening our partnerships well into the future:

- With national agencies (DOH, PhilHealth, POPCOM and other national agencies): we will continue partnerships in the implementation of the national government reform strategies in health.
- With local governments: we will continue partnerships in improving local governance, capacity to deliver and finance basic health services through the public and private sectors, and participation of stakeholders in decision-making and implementation.
- With the Leagues: we will continue partnerships in supporting individual LGUs to achieve increased capacity to respond to population, health and nutrition needs of their constituents in a participatory way.

The U.S. Government looks forward to our work with the DOH, PhilHealth, POPCOM, the LGUs and the various local stakeholders to be able to meet the challenge of providing good health to all Filipinos, particularly the poor.

Once again, congratulations to all the partners gathered here today, in celebrating LGUs' achievements in health governance and for all the noble and collective efforts as we move on to creating more opportunities for better health.

Maraming Salamat po! (Thank you very much)